

DUBLIN  
REGULATION



by just one country within the EU. The BAMF office will therefore ask you when and where you arrived in the EU and will ask you to give reasons against a transfer to the Member State responsible for your application. It is essential for you to register in the country which you enter first. Many families are separated en route – only by registering is it possible to bring families back together.

## Step 7: Await assessment of your asylum application if Germany is in charge of your application

FEDERAL OFFICE  
FOR MIGRATION  
AND REFUGEES



INTERVIEW

You will be interviewed in person by BAMF staff and asked to give your reasons for seeking asylum. Interpreters will be available who are sworn to confidentiality. You can arrange for a lawyer to be present at your hearing. After the hearing, the BAMF office will check whether you are eligible for asylum in Germany based on the reasons you have given.

You will receive written notification from the BAMF office on the decision on your asylum application. If your application is judged to be valid, you will be issued with a temporary residence permit. After three years you will be issued with a permanent settlement permit if your eligibility criteria still apply.

If the final decision is to refuse your application, you will be required to leave Germany by the date specified. If you fail to leave within the specified period, you will be repatriated by force if necessary.

### TELL US YOUR REASONS FOR APPLICATION

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?  
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?  
DON'T WORRY, THERE WILL BE A TRANSLATOR.

GET YOUR DECISION ON YOUR APPLICATION  
THE DECISION WHETHER YOU HAVE THE RIGHT FOR ASYLUM OR NOT



### IMPRINT

**Published by**  
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OTHER LANGUAGE

<http://www.bamf.de/inforefugees>

**Last updated**  
October 2015

**Printed by**  
Silber Druck OHG  
Am Waldstrauch 1  
34266 Niestetal

**Designed by**  
Tatjana Bauer | publications |  
event management | visitor's reception service

**Photographs/infographics**  
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for Migration  
and Refugees

## Important information for applying for asylum in Germany

ENGLISCH



This fact sheet contains helpful information for asylum seekers taking the first steps in the asylum procedure.

**Very important:** Follow the instructions you are given by the public authorities. This is the quickest way to start the asylum application. There is no future in Germany without acceptance in the procedure.

### Step 1: Report to a public authority

ASYLUM SEEKER  
WHO ARE YOU?



As soon as you arrive in Germany, report to a public authority, such as the police. Say that you would like to

apply for asylum. Follow the instructions of the staff. They will refer you to accommodation in a nearby reception centre. If you do not report to the authorities, you are in Germany illegally and run the risk of being deported!

### Step 2: Go to a reception centre

You will be accommodated initially in the nearest reception centre for asylum seekers. You will be taken care of here and given the information you need. You will be issued with a certificate of registration as an asylum seeker („Bescheinigung über die Meldung als Asylsuchende“). This step is necessary. You are required to give information about your identity and your asylum application cannot proceed without it.

GET TEMPORARY  
RESIDENCE PERMIT  
YOUR ALLOWANCE TO STAY  
„AUFENTHALTSGESTATTUNG“



while your  
application is  
in process

### Step 3: Await your federal state allocation

You cannot choose which federal state to stay in. You will be allocated accommodation in a federal

GERMANY  
AND ITS FEDERAL  
STATES



state. This decision is binding. All asylum seekers need to be divided evenly among the 16 federal states so that requests for protection can be processed quickly.

You may therefore be required to travel to a different federal state. Please do not oppose this decision otherwise your asylum application cannot be duly processed and this would jeopardise your legal residence status in Germany!

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge – BAMF), which decides on your asylum application, has offices in all 16 federal states. The same rules are applied in the asylum procedure everywhere in Germany.

In exceptional cases, personal circumstances may be taken into consideration when deciding on the distribution (e.g. close family ties).

### Step 4: Go straight to the reception centre to which you are directed

The reception centre to which you are directed is responsible for your subsistence, accommodation and health care. You will also be given information there about the next steps in the procedure and you will be told which BAMF office is dealing with your case. It is usually close to the reception centre. Only in this reception centre are you guaranteed a means of subsistence.

RECEPTION  
CENTRE



### Step 5: Submit your asylum application

FEDERAL OFFICE  
FOR MIGRATION  
AND REFUGEES



APPLY FOR  
ASYLUM

You are required to submit your asylum application in person at the BAMF office. The office will keep a record of your personal data. You will be photographed and your fingerprints will be taken (except in the case of children under 14 years of age).

This is a requirement for the issue of the residence permit (identification document). This document is proof of your status as an asylum seeker for the public authorities and shows that you are a legal resident in Germany. If you cannot furnish this proof, you may be forced to leave Germany.

BRING ALL  
PERSONAL  
DOCUMENTS  
PASSPORT,  
BIRTHCERTIFICATE,  
ETC.



AND ALL  
TRAVEL  
DOCUMENTS  
TICKETS,  
QUITTANCES, ETC.



get copies  
of your  
documents

WE TAKE  
FINGERPRINTS  
THIS HELPS US TO  
IDENTIFY YOU



AND A PHOTO  
THIS ALSO HELPS TO  
IDENTIFY YOU AND  
TO PROVIDE VALID  
DOCUMENTS



not from  
children  
<14 years

### Step 6: Await the decision as to which country in the European Union is responsible for your asylum application

The BAMF office will check if Germany or a different country is responsible for your asylum application. This check is based on the Dublin Regulation and is applicable in the countries of the European Union (EU), Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. This check is carried out to avoid duplication and to make sure that each asylum application is processed